

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image processing apparatus, comprising:

a density value detection part that detects a density value of a predetermined color component of image data ~~representing a nearby image in the vicinity of an image to which an~~ additional data is to be added;

a pattern decision part that decides a pattern having an area corresponding to the density value detected by the density value detection part and having a shape corresponding to the additional data to be added to the image data which is larger in an area at the higher density value detected by the density value detection part and has a shape corresponding to a value of the additional data to be added to the image; and

a pattern superimposing part that superimposes the pattern decided by the pattern decision part on ~~the image data representing the image~~.

Claim 2 (Original): The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a pattern storage part that stores plural patterns having different shapes and areas, wherein the pattern decision part selects a pattern from the patterns stored in the pattern storage part.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an area changing part that changes the area of a pattern,
wherein the area of a pattern having a shape corresponding to the value of additional data is changed by the area changing part when the pattern decision part makes a decision by changing the area of a pattern having a shape corresponding to the value of additional data by the area changing part.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the pattern decision part decides a wider pattern is to be added when the density value detection part detects that the predetermined color component has a higher density value than a threshold value. at the higher density value detected by the density value detection part.

Claim 5 (Original): The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the density value detection part detects a density value of a yellow component of the image data.

Claim 6 (Original): The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the density value detection part detects a sum of weighed density values of the respective color components of the image data.

Claim 7 (Original): The image processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the pattern superimposing part modulates amplitude of the pattern corresponding to the value of additional data according to the sum of weighed density values of the color components of the image data before superimposing the pattern.

Claim 8 (Original): The image processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein, of the color components, a cyan color is assigned a lower weight than other color components to find the sum of the weighed density values.

Claim 9 (Original): The image processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein, of the color components, a black or red color is assigned a higher weight than other color components to find the sum of the weighed density values.

Claim 10 (New): The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the pattern decision part decides a larger pattern to be added when the density value detection part detects that the predetermined color component has a higher density value than a threshold value.

Claim 11 (New): The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the additional data is a network address to indicate the location where the image data is stored.

Claim 12 (New): The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the additional data is an ID to identify the copyright holder of the image data.

Claim 13 (New): An image processing apparatus, comprising:
a density value detection part that detects a density value of a predetermined color component of image data to which additional data is to be added;
a pattern recognition part that decides a pattern having an area corresponding to the density value detected by the density value detection part;
a pattern superimposing part that superimposes the pattern decided by the pattern decision part on the image data.

Claim 14 (New): An image processing method, comprising:
detecting, by a density value determining part, a density value of a predetermined color component of image data to which an additional data is to be added;
deciding, by a pattern decision part, a pattern having an area corresponding to the density value detected by the density value detection part and having a shape corresponding to the additional data to be added to the image data; and
superimposing, by a pattern superimposing part, the decided pattern on the image data.

Claim 15 (New): The image processing method according to claim 14, further comprising:
storing plural patterns having different shapes and areas in which an appropriate pattern is selected amongst the plural patterns.

Claim 16 (New): The image processing method according to claim 14, further comprising:

changing the area of a pattern having a shape corresponding to the value of additional data when the pattern decision part makes a decision.

Claim 17 (New): The image processing method according to claim 14, further comprising;

deciding a wider pattern to be added when the density value detection part detects that the predetermined color component has a higher density value than a threshold value.

Claim 18 (New): The image processing method according to claim 14, further comprising;

detecting a density value of a yellow component of the image data.

Claim 19 (New): The image processing method according to claim 14, further comprising;

detecting a sum of weighed density values of the respective color components of the image data.

Claim 20 (New): The image processing method according to claim 19, further comprising;

modulating amplitude of the pattern corresponding to the value of additional data prior to superimposing the pattern according to the sum of weighed density values of the color components of the image data.

Claim 21 (New): The image processing method according to claim 19, further comprising;

assigning a cyan color with a lower weight than other color components, in order to find the sum of the weighed density values.

Claim 22 (New): The image processing method according to claim 19, further comprising;

assigning black or red color with a higher weight than other color components, in order to find the sum of the weighed density values.

Claim 23 (New): The image processing method according to claim 14, further comprising;

deciding a larger pattern to be added when the density value detection part detects that the predetermined color component has a higher density value than a threshold value.

Claim 24 (New): The image processing method according to claim 14, further comprising;
using a network address as an additional data to indicate the location where the image data is stored.

Claim 25 (New): The image processing method according to claim 14, further comprising;
using an ID as an additional data to identify the copyright holder of the image data.

Claim 26 (New): An image processing method, comprising:
detecting a density value of a predetermined color component of image data to which additional data is to be added;
deciding a pattern having an area corresponding to the density value; and
superimposing the decided pattern on image data.